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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4703
INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RHMFISS/39ABG INCIRLIK AB TU IMMEDIATE
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RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J-3/J-5// IMMEDIATE
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/17/2022

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [TU](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: TURKEY/IRAQ: TURKISH AIR AND ARTILLERY STRIKES ON
PKK TARGETS IN ZAP REGION

REF: STATE 2974

Classified By: Ambassador Ross Wilson for reasons 1.4 (b,d).

[¶1.](#) (S) Turkish warplanes attacked suspected PKK positions in the Zap region, in northern Iraq along the Turkey-Iraq border, between 1200 and 1400 hours local time on December [¶17.](#) The Turkish General Staff (TGS) provided advance warning to the Ankara Coordination Center (ACC) located in the Office of Defense Cooperation in Ankara. ACC personnel promptly coordinated with relevant U.S. military authorities to ensure battlespace over northern Iraq was appropriately cleared. The precise number of Turkish aircraft participating in the attack is unknown, although we assess that fewer than twelve aircraft took part.

[¶2.](#) (S) Turkish Land Forces Command followed up the airstrikes with artillery fire in the same target area. As with the air and artillery strikes on December 16 (reftel), overcast conditions in the target area will make battle damage assessment (BDA) difficult. We expect that the Turkish government will make a public announcement about these strikes, as it did for the December 16 operation.

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WILSON